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Letter dated 6 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith a position paper of the Russian Federation containing proposals to enhance the activities of the Military Staff Committee in the context of strengthening the United Nations peacekeeping potential (see annex).

It is our intention to submit this position paper to the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping for its consideration.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sergey **Lavrov**

01-44532 (E) 060701

Annex to the letter dated 6 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Enhancing the activities of the Security Council Military Staff Committee

Position paper

A more active use of the capacities of the Military Staff Committee to strengthen the United Nations potential in the field of maintenance or restoration of peace and security would organically coincide with efforts to increase the effectiveness of the United Nations and its Security Council.

Enhancing the activities of the Military Staff Committee under the present conditions would mean:

(a) Giving an adequate response to the increasing demand for United Nations peacekeeping services, and the more complex character and scale of peacekeeping operations;

(b) Enhancing the operative capacity and efficiency of the Security Council as the leading body in the maintenance of international peace and security;

(c) Providing the United Nations with additional possibilities for building up peacekeeping potential;

(d) Promoting a higher level of military expertise for decision-making on conflict settlement involving the United Nations peacekeeping potential.

The Russian Federation's proposal to engage the Military Staff Committee is not intended to modify or substitute it for those United Nations structures dealing with military aspects of peacekeeping that already exist and have proved effective.

The Military Staff Committee should be able to perform its functions, as provided for by the Charter of the United Nations, and to assist the Security Council in its strategic guidance and control over peacekeeping operations.

What is important is that the Military Staff Committee has already in place its organizational principles, procedures of functioning and interaction with the Security Council, the Secretariat and United Nations Member States, formally established in the Charter, the provisional statute and rules of procedure of the Military Staff Committee.

It is worth noting that Article 47, paragraph 4, of the Charter, envisages the establishment, with the authorization of the Security Council and after consultation with appropriate regional agencies, of the Military Staff Committee's subsidiary bodies — i.e., regional subcommittees — whose membership is not limited to representatives of the five permanent members of the Security Council. Moreover, in accordance with the Charter, the Military Staff Committee may establish functional subcommittees (operational, intelligence, logistics, communications etc.).

The Russian Federation's proposals for enhancing the activities of the Military Staff Committee provide for developing suitable ways of involving in its work, in accordance with Article 47, paragraph 2, of the Charter, non-permanent members of

the Security Council, States that contribute troops and logistic support and other Member States concerned. It would seem advisable to establish a practice of targeted consultations on military aspects of peacekeeping operations according to the following format: Military Staff Committee — non-permanent members of the Security Council — contributors of troops and logistic support for the operation — United Nations Secretariat.

The enlarged Military Staff Committee could provide on a permanent basis an analysis of the military component of the situation in conflict areas and prepare recommendations for the Security Council, including recommendations on a possible use of military means as a preventive measure and on carrying out sanctions and — most important — work out, in cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations Secretariat, the military and operative aspects of peacekeeping.

Upon the decision by the Security Council the Military Staff Committee could take part in the activities of working groups and other United Nations bodies on peacekeeping issues, where its representatives could be responsible for summing up the "lessons learned", and the preparation of recommendations on the use of military contingents in peacekeeping operations.

Upon the decision of the Security Council and in concurrence with the Secretariat, representatives of the Military Staff Committee could be included in fact-finding missions and inspection teams to assess the readiness of forces and the means of logistic support provided to the United Nations for participation in peacekeeping operations.

The Military Staff Committee could provide military expertise on policy documents of military aspects of peacekeeping operations worked out in the United Nations, involving experts from military staffs of the Committee's member States, and also participate directly in the preparation of such documents.

In general the Military Staff Committee's enhancement should meet the urgent requirement fully to use the available United Nations capacities to increase the Organization's peacekeeping potential. Specific and suitable proposals regarding this problem should be worked out with the participation of all interested Member States.